

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 09418 251653Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

-----050222 251656Z /44

O 251553Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4411

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

WHITE HOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 9418

EXDIS - DIST AS NODIS

CAIRO FOR EILTS

AMMAN FOR ATHERTON

FROM AMBASSADOR LEWIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PEPR, EG, IS, US

SUBJECT: CURIOUS DISCREPANCIES IN VERSIONS OF PRIME MINISTER BEGIN'S

"UNDELIVERED MESSAGE" TO PRESIDENT SADAT

REF: (A) TEL AVIV 9325, (B) CAIRO 17589

1. WHEN I REREAD HERMANN EILTS' ACCOUNT OF HIS MEETING
WITH SADAT YESTERDAY, JULY 24, I WAS STRUCK BY A DISCREPANCY
IN THE WAY SADAT DESCRIBED THE MESSAGE RECEIVED
FROM BEGIN THROUGH ISRAELI MILITARY CHANNELS AND THE
ACTUAL TEXT OF THE MESSAGE GIVEN TO ME FOR TRANSMISSION
THE FOLLOWING DAY (REF A). IN PARAGRAPH TEN OF REF B,
HERMANN QUOTES SADAT AS SAYING THAT THE MESSAGE MENTIONED
THE SFM SITE AS A POSSIBLE LOCATION FOR THE PROPOSED
MEETING; IT ALSO SAYS "BEGIN HAD SUGGESTED THAT HE AND
SADAT MEET AT SOME PLACE THEY MIGHT BOTH DECIDE UPON."
I WENT BACK AND REREAD CAREFULLY THE TEXT OF THE MESSAGE

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SENT TO ME FOR TRANSMISSION FROM THE PRIME MINISTER'S
OFFICE, AND IT DID NOT CONTAIN EITHER OF THESE TWO
POINTS. THIS AFTERNOON IN A PRIVATE TALK WITH EZER
WEIZMAN, HE SHOWED ME HIS COPY OF THE MESSAGE HE HAD
ORIGINALLY SENT FOR BEGIN THROUGH HIS MILITARY TEAM
WHICH WAS NOT ACCEPTED BY SADAT. THAT TEXT WAS IDENTICAL
TO MINE, SO THERE DOES NOT SEEM TO BE ANY POSSIBILITY

OF THE MESSAGE BEING EDITED HERE AFTER IT WAS INITIALLY REJECTED.

2. I HAVE NO EXPLANATION FOR THIS CURIOUS DISCREPANCY,
AND WOULD BE INTERESTED IN WHETHER HERMANN MIGHT HAZARD
A GUESS AS TO WHAT HAPPENED. PERHAPS IT MERELY REPRESENTS
SOME FUZZINESS ON SADAT'S PART, CONFUSING WHAT WAS
ACTUALLY IN BEGIN'S MESSAGE WITH WHAT HE HAD HEARD FROM
EITHER WEIZMAN AT SALZBURG ABOUT A BEGIN/SADAT MEETING OR
FROM KAMEL AFTER THE LEEDS MEETINGS ABOUT A POSSIBLE SFM
MEETING PLACE. IT MIGHT, ON THE OTHER HAND, BE A SUBTLE
EFFORT BY SADAT TO PUT BEGIN IN AN EVEN LESS ATTRACTIVE
LIGHT WITH US BY DEPICTING HIM AS ASKING AGAIN FOR A
PRIVATE MEETING BETWEEN THE TWO LEADERS. PERHAPS THIS
IS NOT AN IMPORTANT POINT, BUT IT IS A CURIOUS ONE.

LEWIS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ALLEGATIONS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, PLANNING MEETINGS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780725/aaaaaulg.tel
Line Count: 77
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ccc8676d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, EXDIS
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